

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS MANILA 18832

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS - PRESIDENT MARCOS' ANNOUNCEMENT ON
DOMESTIC SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

REF: A. MANILA 15642 B. MANILA 16782

1. IN DECEMBER 1 SPEECH AT A BROADCASTERS CONFERENCE
PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS (REF B), THAT THE
DOMESTIC SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WOULD BE OPERATIONAL
BY DECEMBER 1977 OR "AT THE LATEST BY JULY 1978" WHICH WOULD
"LINK THE WHOLE COUNTRY BY RADIO AND TELEVISION." HE
EXPLAINED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT WAS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY
FOR GENERAL BROADCAST PURPOSES, BUT ALSO FOR NATIONAL
DEFENSE AND EDUCATION.

2. WE REPORTED IN REF. A THAT DOMESTIC SATELLITE PHILIP-
PINOS, A PRIVATE COMPANY, HAD ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT
WITH NIPPON ELECTRIC CO. OF JAPAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF ELEVEN EARTH STATIONS IN SELECTED AREAS OF THE
PHILIPPINES. THE PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT SEEMS TO
GIVE THAT PROJECT A MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY THAN IT
ENJOYED BEFORE. COL. CESAR HECHANOA OF DOMESTIC
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SATELLITE PHILIPPINES STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROBABLY

WOULD NOT MEAN OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN CONSULTANTS AND U.S. SUPPLIERS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, BECAUSE OF PRIOR PHILIPPINE COMMITMENTS TO THE JAPANESE. HE SAID THE JAPANESE WOULD BUILD THE ENTIRE DOMESTIC EARTH SYSTEM AND THAT THE NETWORK WOULD USE THE EXISTING INTELSAT FOR SPACE RELAY PURPOSES.

3. COL HECHONOV ADED, THAT THE ASEAN NATIONS PLANNED TO MEET DECEMBER 20 IN BANGKOK TO PLAN FOR A REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE NETWORK TO BEGIN OPERATIONS ABOUT 1983. HE SUGGESTED THAT THIS ASEAN PROJECT HAS GOOD PROSPECTS AND THAT POTENTIAL AMERICAN CONSULTANTS AND EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS SHOULD FOLLOW ASEAN DEVELOPMENTS. AMBASSADOR ROSARIO MANALO, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PADRE FAURA, MANILA IS IN CHARGE OF ASEAN AFFAIRS FOR THE PHILIPPINES AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE GOP ASEAN SECRETARIAT GENERAL. COMMERCE MAY WISH TO PASS ABOVE TO THE US COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY.
SULLIVAN

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